



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/535,116

05/16/2005

Mark Gilmore Mears

PU020461

3617

24498

7590

08/21/2008

Joseph J. Laks

Thomson Licensing LLC

2 Independence Way, Patent Operations

PO Box 5312

PRINCETON, NJ 08543

EXAMINER

ANDRAMUNO, FRANKLIN S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2623

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/21/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-8, 10-19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kendall (US 2006/0156332 A1) in view of Ganzer et al (US Patent 5,121,430) in view of Fallen et al (US 20030107494A1). Hereinafter referred as Kendall, Ganzer, and Fallen.

Regarding claims 1, 10, and 19, Kendall discloses an apparatus and method having an emergency alert function (**Emergency Alert Function (305) in figure 3**), comprising: tuning means for tuning signals including emergency alert signals associated with said emergency alert function (**Tuner (22) in figure 2**); and processing means for enabling a disabled user setting for an auxiliary information display function of said apparatus responsive to said emergency alert signals. **However, Kendal fails to disclose** the use of enabling a disabled apparatus. Ganzer discloses (**column 11 lines 3-11**) the slave unit (85) may output control signals to control the functioning of accessory devices (96) in response to an emergency. However, Kendall fails to disclose and interface means for disabling an audio output device associated with said apparatus. Fallen discloses on (**figure 2**) automatically disabling the audio alarm of the

Art Unit: 2623

power supply while it is still operational. Fallen shows how an operator disables an audio output of an interface at any given time thus could have been disabled.

Therefore, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to include the use of a control function to control devices triggered by an emergency unit. This is a useful combination because it allows devices to be turned on or off in case of an emergency.

Regarding claims 2, 11, and 20, Ganzer discloses the apparatus and method of claims 1, 10, and 19, wherein said disabled audio output device includes an internal speaker of said apparatus **(Speaker (71) in figure 3)**.

Regarding claims 3, 12, and 21, Ganzer discloses the apparatus and method of claims 1, 10, and 19, wherein said disabled audio output device is operatively connected to an audio output terminal of said apparatus **(Audio Toggle (69) in figure 3)**.

Regarding claims 4, 13, and 22, Ganzer discloses the apparatus and method of claims 1, 10, and 19, wherein said processing means further enables a first alert output via said audio output device responsive to activation of said emergency alert function **(Alternative Broadcast Signal Input Circuitry (53) in figure 3)**.

Regarding claims 5, 14, and 23, Ganzer discloses the apparatus and method of claims 4, 13, and 22, wherein said processing means further enables a second alert output via a secondary device responsive to activation of said emergency alert function **(User Set Alternative Alert Select (58) in figure 3)**.

Regarding claims 6, 15, and 24, Ganzer discloses the apparatus and method of claims 5, 14, and 23, wherein said secondary device includes a telephone (**column 3 lines 21**).

Regarding claims 7, 16, and 25, Ganzer discloses the apparatus and method of claims 5, 14, and 23, wherein said secondary device includes a computer (**Alert Computer (11) in figure 2**).

Regarding claims 8, 17, and 26, Kendall discloses the apparatus and method of claims 5, 14, and 23, wherein said secondary device includes a television signal receiver (**Display (29) in figure 2**).

Regarding claims 9, 18, and 27, Ganzer discloses the apparatus and method of claims 5, 14, and 23, wherein said secondary device includes a visual output device (**Alarm (6) in figure 1**).

### ***Conclusion***

3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

Art Unit: 2623

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRANKLIN S. ANDRAMUNO whose telephone number is (571)270-3004. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs (7:30am - 5:00pm) alternate Fri off (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelley can be reached on (571)272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Chris Kelley/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art  
Unit 2623